

# White House VISITOR CENTER

1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

## You Can Become a Very Important Person!

Volunteering is an American tradition that over the years has made an immeasurable contribution to communities, organizations and individuals throughout the country. Volunteers are vital to the success of the National Park Service (NPS). The Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) program can accept and use voluntary help and services from the public, in a way that is mutually beneficial to the NPS and the volunteer.

In 2004, more than 140,000 volunteers donated 5 million hours of service in the national parks. They come from every state and many different countries to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

VIPs work in parks from Maine to Guam – in big cities, small towns and remote wilderness. There are more than 385 national parks and

historic sites. Whether you work behind the scenes or with visitors, you can make a difference! Parks are the places where our nation's history continues to unfold.

The NPS provides current information about the VIP program on the National Park Service website at: [www.nps.gov/volunteer](http://www.nps.gov/volunteer). An electronic application is provided so you can apply to become a VIP right from the Web! All applications submitted from the Web will be e-mailed directly to the VIP Coordinator in the Park. If the Park finds there is no match between an applicant's abilities and the Park's needs, applications will be forwarded to a national bulletin board where VIP Coordinators from every park can review the application.

*For more information about the President's Park volunteer program, please call 202-208-1631.*

**Here are a variety of assignments at President's Park:**

**Information Specialist - Provide current local information to interested visitors.**

**Interpreter - Give guided nature talks and walks around the many statues and memorials in the 89-acre Park.**

**Special Events Assistant - Including Spring and Fall Garden Tours, Pageant of Peace, Easter Egg Roll, Lighting of the National Christmas Tree.**

**Education Program Aide - Assist with special presentations for elementary school children and seniors.**

## General Marquis de Lafayette Statue

The statue of General Marquis de Lafayette in Lafayette Park, north of the White House, honors a great French patriot of the American Revolution.

While a tribute to a Frenchman and executed by French sculptors, it is a monument entirely conceived, legislated, and funded by the United States Congress. It is intended to remind generations of Americans of the highest level of patriotism and democracy.

In April, 1777, Lafayette sailed to America to aid in the American colonists' struggle for independence from the British. Congress granted him a commission of major general in July, 1777. By the end of the year Lafayette had also received command of his own troops, and he had cemented a strong friendship with General George Washington, who became Lafayette's "adopted father."

Lafayette's popularity in both American and French circles was an important factor in the treaties of February 1778, that ensured French support for the American cause. In 1779, Lafayette returned to France and succeeded in helping secure 6,000 French

soldiers for the war. Lafayette returned to America in 1780.

Although the formal end of the Revolutionary War did not come until 1783, Lafayette and his troops held Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781 and confirmed America's independence.

In 1782, Lafayette returned to France having become "the Hero of Two Worlds." Congress voted on a motion to invite Lafayette to America in 1824 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Revolutionary War. At that time Lafayette was the sole surviving military figure from the American Revolution and celebrated as the "Nation's Guest."

The statue of Lafayette was formally completed in 1891, and placed on the south-east corner of Lafayette Park. The Lafayette statue has served as the backdrop for ceremonies involving the French and American governments. An Act of Congress made Lafayette an "honorary citizen" in 2002.



## Welcome to the White House Visitor Center Kids Corner!



The White House Visitor Center plays host to children throughout the year as a salute to America's holidays. Special programs are offered to children and families and everyone is encouraged to participate. No reservations are needed.

In January, we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. February brings the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809) and George Washington (February 22, 1732). Did you know two other presidents were born in February? William Henry Harrison on February 9, 1773 and Ronald Reagan on February 6, 1911.

Memorial Day in May has become "A Day of Remembrance" to honor the many military who sacrificed their lives for our country. That majestic "Old Glory", our red, white and blue flag of 13 stripes and 50 stars has a special day in June, and who can forget our Nation's Birthday Blast on the 4th of July! By the end of summer, we hope many visitors have traveled to other National Parks (if only on the internet!) as we celebrate the National Park Service birthday. Lest we forget, the year ends with Veteran's Day in November, and a special celebration for the holidays in December.


Kids Corner programs are held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. (see calendar dates) with puzzles, trivia hunts, games, and crafts. Learn more about the holidays we celebrate and why. Ever make a stovepipe hat? Lincoln wore them! Wonder why the flag is red, white and blue instead of pink, yellow and green? Ever dream about living in the White House? Your dreams can come true at the White House Visitor Center. See you there! Just look for the Kid's Corner!

*For more information about upcoming Kids Corner events, check at the Visitor Center Information Kiosk.*




# APRIL


## FRIDAY, APRIL 1

 "Mr. Lincoln's Washington" – Join a Park Ranger's discussion of Washington during the Civil War (1861-65). *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

## SATURDAY, APRIL 2


 "Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m.*

## DAILY, APRIL 5 – 9


 "Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie!" – Join a Park Ranger's talk on Helen Taft's wonderful "gift" from Japan – thousands of cherry trees! *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*




## DAILY, APRIL 10 – 14

 "The New Capital City" – Both New York City and Philadelphia were once capitals of the United States. Then, areas of Virginia and Maryland were combined, and a new city, called Washington, D.C., became our capital. Join a Ranger's discussion on this "new" city. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*


## SATURDAY, APRIL 16

 "Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Screening will be repeated on Saturday, April 30.*


## DAILY, APRIL 18 – 24

 National Park Service Week – Spring has arrived! Visit your local National Park! View the many historic sites in the Washington, D.C. area. Check at the Information Desk for hours at local Parks.

## DAILY, APRIL 19 – 23

 "Wildlife at the White House" – Join a Park Ranger and hear about all the four-legged "critters" that have inhabited the grounds around the White House through the years. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

## DAILY, APRIL 25 – 29

 "The Vacant Chair" – A Park Ranger presentation focusing on White House families and the children who tragically left us at an early age. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

# MAY


## DAILY, MAY 3 – 7

 "A Walk Through President's Park" – Join a Park Ranger and explore the parkland around the White House. The Butt-Millet Fountain and the Second Division Monument are among the many memorials in President's Park. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*




2nd Division Monument


## WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

 "Twilight Tattoo" – The U.S. Army Military District of Washington presents a one hour musical and marching review of the history of military music from the earliest days of our nation to the present. *Presented on the Ellipse at 7 p.m. Repeated every Wednesday evening through June.*


## DAILY, MAY 9 – 13

 "Harry S Truman" – Join a Park Ranger and discuss a little known, but gutsy vice president from Missouri who suddenly became President during World War II. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*


## DAILY, MAY 17 – 21

 "Mr. Lincoln's Washington" – Join a Park Ranger's discussion of Washington during the Civil War (1861-65). *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*


## SATURDAY, MAY 21


 "Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Screening will be repeated on Saturday, May 28.*

## DAILY, MAY 22 – 26


 "A Walk Around the Park" – Join a Park Ranger and explore the monuments and memorials in President's Park. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

## MONDAY, MAY 30

 "The Man Who Would be President" – Join a Park Ranger on Memorial Day as we remember the military men and women who have served their country. One of these men had been "destined" by his father and family to become President. *Program begins at 12 noon.*


 Kids Corner – A family-oriented crafts program to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day, a Day of Remembrance. *Programs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.*

## TUESDAY, MAY 31


 "Out on a Limb" – The Executive Branch of the government embraces the President's Cabinet. Who forms the Cabinet? Join a Park Ranger's discussion on the history of the President's advisors. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

# JUNE


## DAILY, JUNE 1 – 4

 "Out on a Limb" – The Executive Branch of the government embraces the President's Cabinet. Who forms the Cabinet? Join a Park Ranger's discussion on the history of the President's advisors. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*


## DAILY, JUNE 7 – 11

 "Mary Todd Lincoln" – Join a Ranger and discuss the misunderstood wife of our 16th President. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

## SATURDAY, JUNE 11


 "Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on Saturday, June 25.*

## DAILY, JUNE 13 – 17


 "Are We There Yet?" – In 1919, the Zero Milestone on the Ellipse was the starting point for the U.S. Army's first attempt to send a convoy of military vehicles across the country. Join a Park Ranger's discussion of this memorable monument. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*




## TUESDAY, JUNE 14

 Kids Corner – A family-oriented program to celebrate National Flag Day. Crafts and reading activities for all. *Displays and programs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.*


## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

 National History Day – The Visitor Center is proud to display student exhibits submitted for a national competition. *Exhibits on display from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.*

## DAILY, JUNE 21 – 25

 "The History of Pennsylvania Ave." – What began as a mere carriage path became a bustling city street over the next 200 years and has a new design in the 21st century. Join a Park Ranger for a walk on the north side of the White House. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

## DAILY, JUNE 27 – 30

 "Andrew Johnson" – Join a Park Ranger's discussion as we explore the life of our 17th President. *Programs begin at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*



**Interpretive Program**



**Walking Tour**



**Video Presentation**



**Musical Presentation**



**Special Event**



EXPERIENCE  
Your AMERICA

**This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.**

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at [whho\\_presidents\\_park@nps.gov](mailto:whho_presidents_park@nps.gov).